

BERLIN DENIES LOSS OF SHIPS IN NAVAL FIGHT IN RIGA GULF

Vessels Reported Destroyed By
Russians Said To Be Old
Boats Sunk By Germans to
Barricade Entrance to Gulf.

Slav Assertion That Prussians
Tried to Land Troops De-
clared To Be False—No
Transports With Squadron.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), Aug. 25.—Russian claims that the German dreadnaught Moltke, two cruisers and eight torpedo boats were sunk in a battle of the Gulf of Riga were declared today to be without foundation, in an official statement issued by the admiralty here.

The admiralty stated that the "German warships" reported by the Russians to have been sunk probably were some old vessels sunk by the Germans themselves to barricade the entrance to the gulf and bottle up the Russian squadron. Some of these vessels had previously been captured from the Russians.

"Neither a large ship nor any German cruiser was sunk or damaged," declared the admiralty statement. "We silenced land batteries near Pernau."

The Russian report that the Germans attempted to land troops on the shores of the gulf was also declared to be false.

No transports accompanied the German ships. The German losses, which previously had been reported to the admiralty, consisted of one torpedo boat sunk and two damaged.

Germans Break Through
Advanced Positions of
Brest-Litovsk Fortress

BERLIN (via wireless to London), Aug. 25.—General von Mackensen has broken through the advanced positions of Brest-Litovsk fortress at Dobynia. Delayed only by Russian rear guard actions, General von Hindenburg is closing in upon Vilna. The Slavs are again in retreat after futile attempts to block the German advance by heavy counter attacks. Capture of Vilna, commanding another section of the Warsaw-Petrograd railway, is expected within a few days.

Both Kovno and Kovel, the extreme ends of the Russian defensive line of which Brest-Litovsk was the center, are now in the hands of the Austro-Germans. Grodno and Bialystok will be surrendered to the Germans within a few more days, it is believed here, and the Russians will make their final stand behind the forts of Brest-Litovsk itself.

Despite the swampy character of the ground around the fortress, the movements of the German troops are proceeding satisfactorily. On the western and southwestern fronts the Slavs have been driven to cover of the outer works, which are under attack. On the north the Bavarians have fought their way several miles east of the railway to Bialystok, and occupy the eastern portion of Bialowieska forest.

Austrian forces that captured Kovel are moving northward in the direction of Datin, the Slavs falling back upon the lake district. Press dispatches received here asserted that the Austrians have taken large numbers of prisoners.

French Aviator Shells
Baden Railway Station,
Southwest of Freiburg

PARIS, Aug. 25.—A French aviator bombarded the railway station at Lorsch, Baden, twenty-eight miles southwest of Freiburg, yesterday, official dispatches reported this afternoon. No mention was made of the damage done. Furious fighting around Souchez and Neuville was reported in this afternoon's official communiqué. The communiqué, however, reported no infantry clashes at any point on the battle front.

"North of Arras a fierce artillery duel continued throughout the night," said the official statement. "In the regions of Royce and Lassigny the artillery combats continue without cessation."

Get Out Blankets! Chill Wave Coming

Shivery Spell Is Expected to Last
Several Days—Temperature
May Drop to 32.

Get out your blankets. A wave of chill August weather generated in the Middle West is spreading east, west and south, dropping temperatures down to 32 as it goes, the nation's weather man announced today. The chill spell is expected to last several days.

South to the Ohio river, east to western New York, and west to the Rockies the wave has expanded. It is expected to reach the east coast tonight. The highest temperatures recorded in the shivery zone today was 50. Even somewhat south of the Ohio river it was down to 32.

DENOUNCED ALLIES; IS SHOT TO DEATH

Gary, Ind., Preacher Is Believed
By Police To Be Victim of
Slav Workers.

GARY, Ind., Aug. 25.—Feeling in Gary was at high tension today over the murder late last night of the Rev. Edmund Kayser, pastor of St. James' Evangelical Lutheran Church, who had, since the European war began, actively championed the German cause, and many times publicly denounced the entente allies.

Chief of Police Pontus Heintz is certain that the murder was an act of revenge on the part of one or several of the many Slav workers in the steel mills.

The minister's body was found in a clump of bushes near his home by August Schultz and the latter's wife. There was a bullet wound in the neck, and another in the shoulder. The Rev. Mr. Kayser had been severely injured. His body was found by a patrolman who was on duty at the time. The Rev. Mr. Kayser had been severely injured. His body was found by a patrolman who was on duty at the time. The Rev. Mr. Kayser had been severely injured. His body was found by a patrolman who was on duty at the time.

It was known that he feared violence at the hands of Gary's Slav population. He had been recently asked and was granted permission to carry a revolver. After evening services at his church he was generally escorted to his home by several members of his congregation.

BRITISH CAPTURE 800
YARDS OF TURKS' LINE

Gains Made in Suva Region.
Russian Aeroplane Squadron
Shells Constantinople.

PARIS, Aug. 25.—A French aviator bombarded and sank a Turkish transport at anchor in the Dardanelles north of Nakara Roads. It was officially announced this afternoon.

The war office also reported the capture by the British of 800 yards of Turkish trenches in the northern zone of operations at Gallipoli, one of the most important single gains at the Dardanelles.

The British gains were made in the Suva bay region, where large British re-enforcements were landed recently. At the same time the French, at the southern tip of Gallipoli peninsula, captured a Turkish observation post by a daring assault.

The French fleet on August 20 successfully shelled Acha Shillman, on the European side of the Dardanelles.

LONDON, Aug. 25.—An Athens news agency dispatch today reports that a Russian aeroplane squadron bombarded Constantinople Monday, killing or wounding forty-one persons, of whom eleven were killed.

The dispatch states also that two allied cruisers penetrated the Dardanelles yesterday and bombarded the Kastaneia batteries with considerable effect.

Dispatches received here today report that a British submarine sank four Turkish sloops carrying troops from Lapsaki to Gallipoli.

Heavy fighting has been resumed at both Krithia and in the Ari Burnu region. Mytilene advises that the Australians along Suva bay captured a Turkish trench yesterday in a violent engagement.

Indictments in Frank
Case Expected By Harris

ATLANTA, Aug. 25.—Governor Harris indicated today that he was not discouraged by the verdict of the coroner's jury in the Leo M. Frank case, which declared that the lynching was by "parties unknown."

TRANSFER OF JITNEY FARES IS PROMISED

Feature Expected to Develop on
Hearing Before Public Utili-
ties Commission.

"COMMON CARRIER" IS ISSUE

Details of Exchange—a New
Problem—Will Be Worked
Out By District Board.

"Jitney transfers," entitling the passenger to hop from one jitney bus to another without the payment of an additional nickel, are probabilities of the early future, as the Public Utilities Commission prepared to consider the question, "Is the jitney a common carrier?"

It was learned at the municipal building today that all applicants for jitney bus licenses have been informed that as soon as the jitney lines come within the category of common carriers it is the purpose of the Commissioners to list them as such, and a transfer system probably will be inaugurated.

The inference drawn at the Municipal Building was that the commissioners intend to declare the jitneys common carriers just as soon as they become sufficiently numerous, and their routes and service become sufficiently extensive, to justify such action.

As soon as these jitneys are declared to be common carriers the Public Utilities Commission will have jurisdiction over such matters as rates and transfers. It is hardly reasonable to expect the rates will be reduced, but the "jitney transfer" may be expected soon. The details of transfer exchange between the numerous jitneys—some owned by individuals and others by companies—will be a new problem in the National Capital.

The commissioners already have issued an order prohibiting passengers from riding on the running boards of jitneys. To this extent they are now recognized as a common carrier, this being a regulation similar to that visited upon the street car companies more than a year ago.

The Public Utilities Commission will reach the jitney problem at its hearing today if other business, now under consideration, does not occupy the entire session.

SERBIA PREPARES
ANSWER TO ALLIES

Council of Ministers Meet to
Frame Reply to Proposal
Ceding Territory.

LONDON, Aug. 25.—The Serbian council of ministers met at Nish today to frame a reply to the proposal that Serbia cede territory to Bulgaria to secure the latter's participation in the war. In some quarters it is predicted that Serbia's decision will be made known within forty-eight hours.

The London press is very optimistic today over the Balkan situation, although this optimism is not entirely shared by diplomatic circles. The Daily Telegraph, for instance, prints a Rome dispatch saying the Balkan league is to be reconstructed, and that the combined armies will offer 1,000,000 men to aid the allies.

No dispatches came from Athens early today within forty-eight hours. It is assumed that the government there is exercising strict censorship, pending the outcome of the meeting at Nish.

DRURY BRINGS ACTION
TO REMOVE AMBROSE

Alleges He Is Unable to Obtain
Satisfactory Accounting
From Trustee.

A suit to remove Attorney William E. Ambrose as trustee under a deed of trust, executed in connection with the estate of William C. Drury, who died May 25, 1908, was filed in the District Supreme Court today by Mr. Drury's son, George W. Drury, who alleges he has been unable to obtain a satisfactory accounting from the defendant.

It is charged by Mr. Drury that practically all the realty belonging to his father's estate has been sold by Mr. Ambrose, who has taken commissions amounting to \$135, but there has been no accounting. Mr. Drury asks for the cancellation of a contract made with Mr. Ambrose whereby the latter gets one-third of his interest in the estate.

Mr. Ambrose is now under sentence to ten years in the penitentiary on a charge of embezzlement in connection with the administration of an estate. The case is before the Court of Appeals.

12 Civilians in Offenburg
Wounded By Aero Bombs

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), Aug. 25.—Twelve civilians in the manufacturing town of Offenburg were wounded by bombs dropped by a French aviator, according to dispatches received here today. Several of the wounded may die.

Power Costs Nothing for The Operation of Electric Railway, Probers Charge

COMPANIES OBJECT
TO INQUIRY AS
IRREGULAR

Refuse to Question Statistician
of District on Matter of
Relations of Utilities.

KUTZ ORDERS OTHERWISE

Inform Attorneys They Had
Sufficient Notice Hearing
Was To Be Conducted.

Opening a hearing that may result in the ultimate divorce of the Washington Railway and Electric Company and the Potomac Electric Power Company, the Public Utilities Commission today developed testimony that in 1913 the power furnished the street railway system cost it nothing, and, in addition, the common carrier sold sufficient power to subsidiaries to net \$37,000 profit.

This testimony was adduced by J. G. Williams, statistician for the commission, and brought from Commissioner Kutz, presiding, the statement that on its face the relation between the railway company and the power company, and the street railway and subsidiaries, looked like "discrimination."

W. F. Ham, treasurer of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, was called to the stand shortly before the luncheon recess. He contended that in return for its power the railway company had guaranteed seven million dollars in bonds of the power company, and, therefore, it hadn't received its power for nothing.

Paying Bigger Dividend.
Corporation Counsel Syme interposed with the statement that the electric power company is paying bigger dividends than the street railway company and the guarantee evidently hadn't cost the Washington Railway and Electric anything.

Commissioner Brownlow voiced similar views.

Mr. Williams' testimony was preceded by a lengthy argument by S. R. Bowen, secretary of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, asking that the hearing be dismissed on the ground that Public Utilities Commission is without power to sever an agreement between public utilities regarding the supplying of facilities even when it is shown that the rates in force are unjust, unreasonable or discriminatory.

The company's position in regard to this was made plain by Mr. Bowen's answer to the following question of Conrad H. Syme, general counsel for the commission.

Question of Authority.
"Do you contend that should a contract exist by which the Washington Railway and Electric Company is furnished one-half of its power by the Potomac Electric Power Company without cost, the commission would not be authorized to interfere?"

The answer of Mr. Bowen was "Yes." Mr. Bowen based his contention on paragraph 1 of the public utility law.

(Continued on Second Page.)

WELSH MINERS STRIKE
COAL TIE-UP FEARED

Great Britain Threatened With
Close of Munitions Plants
and Shipping Interests.

CARDIFF, Wales, Aug. 25.—For the second time within a few weeks Great Britain is threatened with a strike of 200,000 South Wales coal miners, a walk-out that would cripple the production of war munitions and tie up a large portion of the British shipping.

One thousand miners in the Hafod district quit work today in protest against the arbitration award made by President Walter Runciman of the government board of trade.

The miners made the charge that the agreement that they entered into through ministerial intervention, Lloyd-George, has not been kept and that the government has attempted to play them into the hands of the mine owners.

The executive committee of the miners' federation has refused to accept the award and has appointed a committee to interview Lloyd-George, whose intercession ended the strike several weeks ago.

The miners firmly believe that Lloyd-George will see to it that the original agreement is respected by the operators and the government. They distrust Runciman whose failure to settle the recent strike was followed by a personal appeal from Lloyd-George.



MAJOR CHARLES W. KUTZ,
Engineer Commissioner.

District Traffic Laws Are Called Oppressive By Motoring Authority

Capital Has Most Senseless, Out-of-Date Regulations of Any City of Size in Country, Declares
E. L. Ferguson, Head of the A. A. A.
Bureau Here.

"Washington has the most oppressive, senseless, out-of-date traffic regulations of any city of its size in the United States."

This is the verdict of E. L. Ferguson, head of the touring bureau in Washington, of the American Automobile Association, who is considered one of the best posted touring authorities in the United States.

Mr. Ferguson, in the course of his work as an expert with the Three A's has studied touring and traffic conditions all over the United States. He knows every cross road in the country and can travel almost anywhere in the country without using a road map. He has directed a large number of important automobile runs and tours, including the Munsey Historic Tour in 1910, in which he was the referee.

PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE TIMES.

"Washington is the victim of traffic regulations formulated when automobiles were little known," he said. "The Times is performing a public service in calling attention to the fact. The traffic regulations here not only handicap and trammel motorists, but they hamper every sort of traffic, and even the pedestrians."

Washington's regulations, according to this expert, make for congestion and delay, instead of expedition in street travel. The comparison, he said, made by The Times, of the contrasting regulations on Fifth avenue, New York, and of Pennsylvania avenue here, bring out the situation admirably.

"On broad Pennsylvania avenue, with a clear stretch ahead most of the time,

an automobile is compelled to limit its speed to twelve miles an hour.

"On Fifth avenue the greatest traffic street in the United States, and probably in the world, an automobile that lingers along at that rate would be asked to speed up."

"By speeding automobiles along as fast as safety warrants, the tremendous traffic of the city is kept moving."

(Continued on Second Page.)

THOUSAND KILLED
IN MONTEREY FIGHT

Villa Forces Inflict Decisive
Defeat on Carranzistas.
Hospitals Are Jammed.

EL PASO, Aug. 25.—Villa forces, numbering nearly 10,000, have inflicted a decisive defeat on the Carranzistas around Monterey, driving them from Villa Garcia back to the Nuevo Leon capital, advices today said.

The Carranzistas are reported to have lost more heavily in this engagement than in any for several months.

Over 1,000 were reported killed, and the Monterey hospitals are filled to capacity with wounded and private homes have been commandeered for the wounded.

EL PASO, Aug. 25.—Austro-Hungarians who have emigrated to America should be helped to return to their native country after the war, "where conditions will be favorable for them," the Austrian Ambassador Joseph, commanding an Austro-Hungarian army corps, told a Tagblatt correspondent.

ARABIC CRISIS PASSED, BELIEF OF OFFICIALS AWAITING NOTE

Situation Today Less Acute Be-
cause of Message Asking
Time to Allow Germany to
State Its Case.

Ambassador von Bernstorff
Expected At State Depart-
ment, But Has Not Yet
Appeared For Conference.

The chief feature of the situation with respect to the Arabic case today was the perceptible feeling in high official quarters that the crisis had passed or, at least, that the danger of a rupture in relations was less acute.

This feeling was reflected both at the White House and at the State Department.

It is directly traceable to the message of Ambassador von Bernstorff yesterday, asking suspension of judgment by this Government and expressing regret if American lives were lost.

NOT HERE YET.

It was expected that Ambassador von Bernstorff would appear at the State Department today, but so far as could be learned he has not yet arrived here and persons close to himself he was still in New York.

Although there are diverse opinions here as to what is the exact import of the message of the Ambassador to Secretary Lansing yesterday, it is the view in practically all quarters that in any event there will be delay and a period wherein there will be doubt and difficulty in establishing the facts. They may remain permanently in dispute. Under such circumstances, the Arabic case, as now viewed is not likely in itself to lead to a breach of relations.

But the fact remains that the big question of what Germany has decided to do in her conduct of submarine warfare is still unanswered. This question still confronts the Administration.

"Is Germany going to conduct naval warfare in accordance with recognized international law?"

Persons who confessed to have information from sources close to the ambassador insisted Germany intended to comply in practice hereafter with this country's demands as made in the July 21 note and that the latest message of yesterday foreshadowed it. But officials are not yet ready to accept this as true, much as they would be pleased if it should prove to be so.

Affidavits All Here.

Further dispatches reached the State Department today from Ambassador von Bernstorff which contain summaries of affidavits of American survivors. They were not given out.

It is the intention of this Government to await the report of the German submarine commander. That is, this Government will wait a reasonable time, as it has done in other cases. No reply has been made to the message of the Ambassador, but it is expected that the Government will wait, but at the department it is admitted that there is no purpose to rush the matter until Germany has been heard from.

Talk in pro-German quarters close to the German embassy is optimistic that a break in the submarine warfare will be made.

One of the reports current is that the German government is getting ready to say to this Government that the sinking of the Arabic was unauthorized, and that Germany has given orders to her submarine commanders to give notice to ships on which American passengers are likely to be before firing on them.

No information of this kind, however, has reached the State Department, and officials here are not countenancing such rumors until backed by something substantial.

Meantime, the State Department is going ahead gathering evidence. It is not yet clear how long it will be before all the evidence is in. It may be needful to wait for a week or more until Berlin can hear from the submarine commander who sunk the Dunsley and is supposed to have fired the shot that sank the Arabic.

It is possible that the sinking of the Arabic was actually meant to complete the sinking of the Dunsley.

Declares U. S. Neutral
In Italo-Turkish War

Proclamation of America's neutrality in the war between Turkey and Italy was signed today by President Wilson and made public by the White House. Similar in form to all other proclamations of neutrality issued by the President with the successive declarations of war in Europe, it warns American citizens and the citizens of the respective belligerent nations residing in this country against violation of the neutrality laws of this country.

Attention is called particularly to the criminal liability of persons seeking to use the United States as a base from which to outfit expeditions to be sent to the aid of either side.